

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

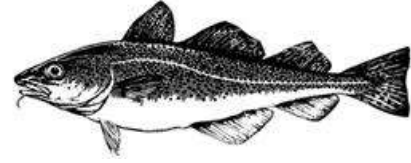
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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DUTCH HARBOR SUBDISTRICT STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD SEASON OPENING and CLOSURE OF THE PARALLEL SEASON Emergency Order # 4-GF-03-18

National Marine Fisheries Service announced closure of the initial federal Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific cod season for catcher vessels less than 60 feet in overall length (OAL) using hook-and-line or pot gear effective January 23, 2018 at 12:00 noon, therefore, the parallel fishery for Pacific cod for catcher vessels less than 60 ft OAL will close on January 23, 2018 at 12:00 noon. The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict (DHS) state-waters Pacific cod season will open only for vessels 58 feet or less OAL using groundfish pot gear at 12:00 noon January 30, 2018, with a 60 pot limit. When the state-waters Pacific cod season is open, state waters are closed to vessels fishing in parallel Pacific cod pot fisheries (including CDQ) that are less than 58 feet in OAL. The DHS state-waters Pacific cod fishery is closed south of 53° 06.11' N lat.

Steller sea lion protection measures will be in effect during the state-waters season and are shown on the map below. Closures are listed in Tables 5 and 12 to 50 CFR part 679 posted on the NMFS web site at: <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries-679regs>.

The Dutch Harbor Subdistrict is an exclusive registration area for Pacific cod. **Fishermen must obtain an exclusive Dutch Harbor Subdistrict state-waters Pacific cod vessel registration and buoy tags prior to participating.** Buoy tags can be purchased at a cost of \$1.50 per tag. Registrations and buoy tags are available at ADF&G offices in Dutch Harbor and Kodiak, through ADF&G personnel at Trident Seafoods in Akutan, and office personnel at Peter Pan Seafoods in King Cove.

Groundfish pots may be stored open and unbaited for seven days prior to the start of the fishery in state waters greater than 25 fathoms. Contact NMFS for pot storage regulations in federal waters.

Reporting requirements will be provided at the time of registration. Fishermen transitioning between a federal or parallel Pacific cod fishery and a state-waters Pacific cod fishery must

deliver all unprocessed Pacific cod on board prior to participating in or exiting the Dutch Harbor state-waters Pacific cod season.

For additional information, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239.